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FED 38

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)
SUBJECT Unrest Among SED Street Wardens

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SUPPLEMENT

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1. It was reported in Berlin-Lichtenberg that when SED house wardens struck in protest against the withdrawal of Ration Card 2, the local Soviet commandant promised a bonus consisting of a dozen cans of vegetables, two pairs of stockings, one pair of gloves, one pair of work shoes, and three meters of cloth. The wardens objected to this "charity" and demanded food, materials, etc. Nothing was delivered up to 3 July 1947.
2. In Berlin-Weissensee, distributions were made on several occasions: one pound of cakes as a Christmas gift, a chest of wood early in 1947, and one pound of sugar in June. Bürgermeister Degner was to become representative of the house and street wardens.
3. The demands of the wardens are based on a consciousness of their importance. The SED plans to train the wardens specially so that they may constitute a political elite or a cadre of political activists. An orientation meeting for Berlin-Lichtenberg was held at the Friedrichsfelde Party headquarters on 2 July 1947, and similar sessions were planned for other districts.

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Comment: the house and street wardens in the Russian Zone have various functions, from organizing groups and distributing monthly ration cards to denouncing members suspected of western orientation. The exact nature of their positions and the SED section by which they are controlled are not clearly known.)

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